

The Oregonian.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, JUNE 7.

SEATTLE'S DISASTER.

Seattle suffers a loss unprecedented in the Northwest. The business portion of the city is annihilated. Relatively the loss is as great as that suffered by Chicago in 1871. The loss at this city by the fire of August, 1873, was far less, both relatively and absolutely, than that which has now befallen Seattle. The disaster that has overtaken the active and energetic city of Puget Sound is less than that which took place at John Day, since it is less of a town, without loss of life; but it is a series of deep concern and regret to witness so general a destruction of property, annihilation of so much business, prostration of so many hopes and enforcement of the hard decree of fortune or fate upon a people who were bustling with life and exhibiting a spirit of enterprise creditable to themselves and to their active and prosperous city.

But let no one despair of Seattle. She will renew her spirit, renew her energies, double her efforts. Early this morning before the ashes of her former prosperity are cold, her citizens will be active and alert in plan and effort to re-establish that prosperity, to rebuild their city, to restore their industry and trade. A great deal of wealth has been destroyed. It must be recovered. The energy of Seattle's earnest men will be equal to this. But there must be many whose means were slender, though before disaster, who are quite destitute. Portland should come forward as a leader in whatever may be necessary for their assistance or succor. Let inquiry at once be made, to learn what may be necessary. Some, undoubtedly, are rendered homeless—though it is only the business part of the city that has suffered.

As yet we hardly know the full extent of the disaster. The telegraph offices were burned out, and for a time communication was interrupted. During the progress of the fire it was scarcely possible to get details, and far into the night the fire raged with a fury that was checked at last only as the material for it was exhausted. Seattle has deserved better fortune—and she will have it. She is in ashes to-day, but in her ashes will live the wounded fire of her energy, and she will soon be a greater and finer city than before this disaster.

UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO STRIKES.

The experience of Chief Arthur, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers with the strike of that organization against the C. & R. R. road system last year seems to have教訓ed him fully of the futility of strikes. He is recorded as having made the unguarded statement that he would not, and did not, oppose any such another effort of that kind.

The fact that a strike, even if fully supported by justice, gives unpunished men a chance for which they are eagerly waiting to secure places at wages which, though lower than the service is worth and less than competent, faithful men ask for their performance, are in excess of what they can ever hope to make on their own merits, was thoroughly proven by the circumstances that defeated the brotherhood in the instance noted. An attempt to prevent such a result by keeping men under such conditions from going to work is one which brings down censure upon the strikers, however justifiable the public may have considered them in resisting the cut in wages by a strike, and if persisted in it can only result in violence, which duly constituted authorities must suppress. The war was not so much against the strike as against competition among the various businesses. The strongest labor organization has fought this war, and the most powerful one that ever existed in the United States has for two years been waning in numbers and influence through the same cause.

When, however, Mr. Arthur unqualifiedly says to his organization: "I will never sanction another strike," he proclaims his disgust at the recent failure and his impatience with the causes within the union that rendered defeat possible with a frankness rather impolitic, to say the least. If the brotherhood proclaims, its acceptance of his extreme views upon this point, it will be viewed by the public as an acknowledgment of a more complete and far-reaching defeat than this. The world has ever claimed. Wisdom based on experience certainly counsels prudent men to avoid strikes by all reasonable and just means. It teaches the cool-headed workman that time is money in business, and that time is money in labor, and prodigal waste in botched defiance to the requirements of the employing power. But, at the same time, the most conservative of the public, this most conservative workman's sentiment will hesitate before indorsing a sentiment so strong as the one with which Mr. Arthur is credited in this instance and wonder whether an organization that has lost confidence entirely in its ability to cope with an encroaching power can be of special advantage to its members.

THE TIN INDUSTRY.

The world hitherto has derived its supply of tin from two principal sources, namely, Cornwall, England, and the Malay Peninsula and adjacent islands. The United States, abounding in all other metals, hitherto have produced little tin; but it is now believed that a supply will soon be obtained from the Black Hills in Dakota.

A school of mines has been established by the territory of Dakota, and much attention has been given by it to the study of the tin veins in the Black Hills. Professors Carpenter and Hoffman, of this school, report that there is no longer any question about the extent of the ore supply or the practicability of reduction. They say that "no difficulty exists in the separation of the black tin from the stone from the accompanying mica, quartz, etc., and that the tin separates so easily from the tin-bearing rock, and besides has so little specific gravity, that almost no concentrating machine will save it."

It is high time, that these mines are to be developed, that proper attention was given to them, for our country is the largest consumer of tin and tin-plate in the world. We consume, in fact, over three-fourths of the world's output. Last year's importations of tin-plate, according to the American Economist, exceeded \$300,000,000, without taking into account the money paid out for transportation.

But the Economist says that though our country may become a producer of tin, it cannot make tin-plate with success without adequate tariff protection. Wages are much lower in England than under present conditions our manufacturers would be beaten out of the field. The fact is recalled that in 1873, the process of tinning tin-plate was begun in the United States and there was a bitter struggle with the foreign tin-plate for five years, when the American enterprise was crowded to the wall. When the first American tin-plate was put on the market, the price of the foreign article was \$12.50 a box, but in the war of extermination the foreign manufacturers rapidly lowered the rate to \$18.15, which caused the closing of the American mills.

The Economist explains that much the greater part of the cost of tin-plate goes into the iron or steel sheets, before the tin-plate process begins, and that as this cost is a large part, there should be a tariff rate heavy enough to enable the industry to hold out against foreign competition. Establish-

ment of this industry would give work to 70,000 people, implies market every year for 300,000 tons of iron, 300,000 tons of limestone, 1,500,000 tons of coal, 300,000 tons of tin, 10,000,000 pounds of sulphuric acid, and about 10,000,000 feet of lumber. The Chicago Tribune says: "If half of what has been claimed regarding the Black Hills tin deposits be true, there would seem to be no reason why a vast industry would not be established in the mining of tin-ores and the manufacture of tin-plate should not be speedily established. If the deposits are anything like what is claimed capital could hardly ask a better investment than in tin mining in the Black Hills. That section is uncommonly rich in mineral wealth, having many valuable silver and gold mines (one of the latter being at this time the heaviest producer in the United States,) and there is good ground for the hope that the tin deposits also will prove of great value."

WHY THE EAST COMES WEST.

The Boston Herald of May 11 contains the following advertisement:

For sale—220-acre Vermont farm, two-story house, 100 acres round three barns; cuts forty tons of hay; round 1500 lbs. of feed; good sugar and apple orchard; stables, \$2000, price, \$1000, must be sold.

This advertisement means that a farm in the heart of an old state, the land of sheep, cattle and horses, is offered for \$10,000 per acre, inclusive of improvements that cost five times this amount. There is nothing in Oklahoma equal to this, and of course there is an explanation why the people of an old state are willing to sell their improved farms at \$5 per acre. This state is rich in copper, granite, marble and slate, and yet real estate is falling every year. The answer is that this state has lost her men by her stupid legislation. Western pluck and enterprise, practiced in New England, would make life as endurable and as remunerative as it is in Oregon. The truth is, that with this old state is the old, young, weak, and infirm. Men leave it, not because they cannot get a living, but because they want "fresh air." They want to enjoy a freedom of thought and action which is forbidden in a state where Spanish inquisitorial laws seek to force morality by legislation, fines and imprisonment. This old state is dying of the disease that Stephen A. Douglas diagnosed many years ago when he said: "Vermont is a glorious place to be born in, providing you are very young."

A New England farmer who would consent to live as a Western farmer does in Iowa, Kansas or Nebraska need not leave his farm because he cannot make a living; so that the reason why the East comes West is the natural impatience of the young man. East with the hibiscus laws and customs and paternal form of government that are distasteful to the average American of our day.

The fault with the East is that the "crank" in religion, morals and politics turns the wheel of public legislation, and young men of blood, energy and nerve are inspired to go west and stay out of land where there is no real free dom. It is not a question of money half so much as it is a revolt against a mean, narrow and smothering civilization.

The man who "sells out" in New England and comes West knows perfectly well that he will have to endure some hardships and consent to some sacrifices as the tiler of a Western farm that he does not endure at home, but he welcomes the change and the sacrifice because he gets with it a personal freedom and a current of fresh air. He does not find at home. When a legislature passes a law, which gives every Paul Pry, instinct with the social spirit of Pecksniff, the right to search the pockets, handbag, trunk or car of a man traveling on the highway, we may be sure that the brains and enterprise of that state are going to get out, and that brains and enterprise from other states will decline to come in.

The "playcating" in business, in religion and politics, is the death of any state. Social and business liberty builds up a state, and any other policy drives it into the best blood from the heart of the people. The Boston Herald, Secretary, N. G.

There is to be a special meeting of the American Society of Engineers, Friends of Oregon, for the purpose of arranging for a concert for the benefit of the Johnstown sufferers.

Veteran Firemen's Association—An ad in the Oregonian will be held Saturday evening, June 15, at 8 P. M., at the Hotel Oregon, 11th and Morrison, \$10.00. All members of the Volunteer Fire Department, the citizens of New York and Brooklyn, are invited to attend. President, ROBERT H. MILLER, 11th and Morrison, Engine Co. No. 1, Brooklyn, N. Y. President, JOSEPH J. GALLAGHER, 202 First Street, No. 4, N. Y. Secretary, PORTLAND LODGE NO. 65, A. F. and S. M. Lodge, 11th and Morrison, Portland.

Portland Legion sleepers and dings are also giving a benefit to the Johnstown sufferers through the East via Northern Pacific Railroad. Office, No. 121 First St., corner Washington.

MEETING NOTICES.

Orator Lecture, 1, 4th and Morrison, every Friday evening at 8 P. M. Mr. W. C. Morrison and J. Drews, East Portland. GEO. A. PRENTISS, T. C. FOULKE, Secretary.

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GOVERNMENT LAND.

We have just five more claims for homesteads, which we have been unable to get up to date, and will be prolonged ten years further at least, and that if living Albert, or Edward VII., which is the case, the present appraisement may well be put off for another ten years.

There are 1000 homesteads in Oregon, and 1000 more to be had.

For more information apply to the U. S. Land Office, Portland.

JOHN B. COOPER, U. S. Land Office, Portland.

